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EXAMINER
SYED, FARHAN M

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

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<tr><td rowspan="3">Office Action Summary</td><td>Application No.</td><td>Applicant(s)</td><td></td></tr>
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	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
Office Action Summary	10/645,687	SIMELIUS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Farhan M. Syed	2165	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>04 April 2007</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-22* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-22* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

·DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-22 are pending.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's Request for Continued

Examination (RCE) submission filed on 04 April 2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3.   The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of
> making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the
> art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall
> set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4.   Claims 1, 15, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing

to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter

which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to

one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed,

had possession of the claimed invention. Figures 1a, steps 103-106 and 1b, step 121

and Applicant's specification, page 9, lines 17-20 discuss selecting grouping identifiers

and further discusses first grouping identifiers, but appears silent on discussing second

grouping identifiers. Therefore, the limitation "in response to a situation in which the first

grouping identifier is not suitable for the formed data item, **obtaining a second**

grouping identifier being associable to at least one other data item for grouping

said data items" does not appear to be described in the specification. The Applicant is

requested to specifically point out where in the specification the aforementioned

limitation is taught.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6.   Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Celik

(U.S. Patent Pub. 2004/0236792).

        As per claims 1, 15, and 22, Celik teaches a method for synchronizing data

between a first electronic device and a second electronic device (see Figure 2B), said

devices being capable of communication with each other (i.e. network)(paragraph [0030]; see

also Fig. 2B), the method comprising: forming a data item (i.e. business contact

information)(paragraph [0033]) for the first time (i.e. input information User 1 wishes to store in the

database)(paragraph [0033]) into the first electronic device (i.e. User 1's PC), in response to

said forming, checking whether a first grouping identifier is suitable for the formed data

item (paragraph [0041]); in response to a situation in which the first grouping identifier is

suitable for the formed data item associating the formed data item to the first grouping

identifier, the first grouping identifier being associable to at least one other data item for

grouping said data items (paragraph [0041]), in response to a situation in which the first

grouping identifier is not suitable for the formed data item (paragraphs [0041]-[0043]),

obtaining a second grouping identifier and associating the formed data item to the

second grouping identifier (paragraphs [0041]-[0043], [0064]-[0070]), the second grouping

identifier being associable to at least one other data item for grouping said data items

(i.e. business cards with ID)(see Figure 2B), selecting one of the following: a first grouping

identifier and the second grouping identifier, to be a selected grouping identifier,

synchronizing said data items (i.e. business cards with ID) between said first electronic

device (i.e. User 1's PC) and second electronic device (i.e. User 2's PC) on the bases of said

selected grouping identifier (i.e. Request data for ID's in the synchronizer) (see Figure 2B).

As per claim 2, Celik teaches a method wherein each grouping identifier

comprises at least one of the following: text, still picture, moving picture, sound or

vibration effect (Paragraphs [0041]-[0043]; [0063-[0070]; [0076]-[0079]; and [0081]).

As per claim 3, Celik teaches a method wherein the second grouping identifier is

formed by the user of the first electronic device or the second grouping identifier is

retrieved from a network server (Paragraphs [0041]-[0043]; [0063-[0070]; [0076]-[0079]; and [0081]).

As per claims 4 and 16, Celik teaches a method wherein the method further comprises maintaining a register of at least one grouping identifier being associable to at least one data item stored into the memory of the first electronic device (Paragraphs [0041]-[0043]; [0063-[0070]; [0076]-[0079]; and [0081]).

As per claims 5 and 17, Celik teaches a method where the first grouping identifier is manually selected from the register by a user of the first electronic device (Paragraphs [0041]-[0043]; [0063-[0070]; [0076]-[0079]; and [0081]).

As per claims 6 and 18, Celik teaches a method wherein the first grouping identifier is automatically selected from the register by the first electronic device (Paragraphs [0041]-[0043]; [0063-[0070]; [0076]-[0079]; and [0081]).

As per claims 7 and 19, Celik teaches a method wherein the second grouping identifier is formed by a user of the first electronic device (Paragraphs [0041]-[0043]; [0063-[0070]; [0076]-[0079]; and [0081]).

As per claims 8 and 20, Celik teaches a method wherein the second grouping identifier is stored to the register of the first electronic device (Paragraphs [0041]-[0043]; [0063-[0070]; [0076]-[0079]; and [0081]).

As per claims 9 and 21, Celik teaches a method wherein a user of the first electronic device selects the grouping identifier for the synchronization manually (Paragraphs [0041]-[0043]; [0063-[0070]; [0076]-[0079]; and [0081]).

As per claim 10, Celik teaches a method wherein the first electronic device selects the selected grouping identifier for the synchronization automatically (Paragraphs [0041]-[0043]; [0063-[0070]; [0076]-[0079]; and [0081]).

As per claim 11, Celik teaches a method wherein the first electronic device performs the synchronization periodically (Paragraphs [0041]-[0043]; [0063-[0070]; [0076]-[0079]; and [0081]).

As per claim 12, Celik teaches a method wherein the selected grouping identifier comprises an icon to be visually presented to the user of the first device (Paragraphs [0041]-[0043]; [0063-[0070]; [0076]-[0079]; and [0081]).

As per claim 13, Celik teaches a method wherein the selected grouping identifier further comprises text to be visually presented to the user of the first device (Paragraphs [0041]-[0043]; [0063-[0070]; [0076]-[0079]; and [0081]).

As per claim 14, Celik teaches a method wherein the selected grouping identifier

further comprises information of those data items associated to said grouping identifier

(Paragraphs [0041]-[0043]; [0063-[0070]; [0076]-[0079]; and [0081]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8.   Claims 1-8, 12-20, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Alam et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,544 and known hereinafter as

Alam) in view of Champagne et al (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2005/0086199 and known

hereinafter as Champagne).

As per claims 1, 15, and 22, Alam teaches a method for synchronizing data

between a first electronic device and a second electronic device, said devices being

capable of communication with each other (i.e. *"In order to accomplish synchronization,*

synchronization components 24 and 36 run on mobile device 12 and desktop computer 14, respectively.

The synchronization components communicate with application programs 16, 18, 28 and 30 (or directly

with the associated object stores) through well defined interfaces (discussed in greater detail below) to

manage communication and synchronization." The preceding text clearly indicates that the first device is

the desktop computer and the second device is the mobile device.)(column 5, lines 28-34), the method

comprising; forming a data item for the first time into the first electronic device (i.e. *"Sync*

engine 36 on desktop 14 also includes a synchronization manager 148 coupled to an associated

reference store 150 and also coupled to application programs, including PIM sync provider 152 and file

sync provider 154." The previous text clearly indicates that the associated reference store is the forming

of a data item for the first time into the first electronic device, which is the desktop.)(column 9, paragraph

56-60)

Alam does not explicitly teaches a method in response to said forming, checking

whether a first grouping identifier is suitable for the formed data item; in response to a

situation in which the first grouping identifier is suitable for the formed data item,

associating the formed data item to the first grouping identifier, the first grouping

identifier being associable to at least one other data item for grouping said data items, in

response to a situation in which the first grouping identifier is not suitable for the formed

data item, obtaining a second grouping identifier and associating the formed data item

to the second grouping identifier, the second grouping identifier being associable to at

least one other data item for grouping said data items, selecting one of the following: the

first grouping identifier and the second grouping identifier, to be a selected grouping

identifier, and synchronizing data items between said first electronic device and said

second electronic device on the basis of said at least one selected grouping identifier.

Champagne teaches a method in response to forming, checking whether a first

grouping identifier is suitable for the formed data item; in response to a situation in

which the first grouping identifier is suitable for the formed data item, associating the

formed data item to the first grouping identifier (i.e. "The category of a field defines the type of

information the field is designed or meant to contain." The preceding text clearly indicates that the formed

data item is the type of information the field is designed or meant to contain and the identifier is the

category.)(page 3, paragraph 36), the first grouping identifier being associable to at least one

other data item for grouping said data items (i.e. *"In other embodiments, the field identification*

protocol provides a list of field categories for a selected group of databases or for those databases

designed to conform to the protocol." The previous text clearly indicates that a list of field categories

(identifiers) for grouping of data items, which are contained in the grouping of databases.)(page 3,

paragraph 36), in response to a situation in which the first grouping identifier is not suitable

for the formed data item, obtaining a second grouping identifier and associating the

formed data item to the second grouping identifier (page 1, paragraph 11), the second

grouping identifier being associable to at least one other data item for grouping said

data items (page 1, paragraph 11), selecting one of the following: the first grouping identifier

and the second grouping identifier, to be a selected grouping identifier (page 1, paragraph

11), and synchronizing data items between said first electronic device and said second

electronic device on the basis of said at least one selected grouping identifier (i.e. *"In a*

third aspect, in order to transmit data between two databases, information identifying the record structure

of one of the two databases is transmitted to a computer program. This transmitted information identifies

both the categories and the properties of a plurality of fields of the record structure of one of the two

databases. Data stored in a plurality of fields of a plurality of the records of the first database is then

transmitted from one of the two databases to the other one of the two databases. The transmitted data is

then processed using the identifying information." The preceding text clearly indicates that synchronizing

data is transmitting data from the first electronic device, which is the first database, and second electronic

device, which is the second database, based on the selected identifier, which is the identifying

information.)(page 1, paragraph 11).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne

to include a method in response to said forming, checking whether a first grouping

identifier is suitable for the formed data item; in response to a situation in which the first

grouping identifier is suitable for the formed data item, associating the formed data item

to the first grouping identifier, the first grouping identifier being associable to at least one

other data item for grouping said data items, in response to a situation in which the first

grouping identifier is not suitable for the formed data item, obtaining a second grouping

identifier and associating the formed data item to the second grouping identifier, the

second grouping identifier being associable to at least one other data item for grouping

said data items, selecting one of the following: the first grouping identifier and the

second grouping identifier, to be a selected grouping identifier, and synchronizing data

items between said first electronic device and said second electronic device on the

basis of said at least one selected grouping identifier with the motivation to efficiently

overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 2, Alam does not teach a method wherein each grouping identifier

comprises at least one of the following: text, still picture, moving picture, sound or

vibration effect.

Champagne teaches a method wherein each grouping identifier comprises at

least one of the following: text, still picture, moving picture, sound or vibration effect (i.e.

"As mentioned, a field identification protocol provides a syntax for remote and host data transfer programs

22, 42 to communicate with one another the data structure of their respective databases. Such a syntax

includes, for example, assigning to each field category a designation (for example, a numerical,

alphabetical, or alphanumerical code or name) identifying that field category, such as "Addr" for address,

"Tell" for the first telephone number, "Appt:date" for a date field of an appointment type record." The preceding text clearly indicates that numerical, alphabetical, or alphanumeric code or name is a type of text.)(page 3, paragraph 42).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include wherein each grouping identifier comprises at least one of the following: text, still picture, moving picture, sound or vibration effect with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 3, Alam does not teach a method wherein the second grouping identifier is formed by the user of the first electronic device or the second grouping identifier is retrieved from a network server.

Champagne teaches a method wherein the second grouping identifier is formed by the user of the first electronic device or the second grouping identifier is retrieved from a network server (i.e. *"In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol."* The preceding text clearly indicates that an identifier such as appointments, "to do" lists, address books, etc., are formed by the user of the device when the user uses the PIM application.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne

to include a method wherein the second grouping identifier is formed by the user of the first electronic device or the second grouping identifier is retrieved from a network server with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claims 4 and 16, Alam does not teach a method wherein the method further comprises maintaining a register of at least one grouping identifier being associable to at least one data item stored into the memory of the first electronic device.

Champagne teaches a method wherein the method further comprises maintaining a register of at least one grouping identifier being associable to at least one data item stored into the memory of the first electronic device (i.e. *"In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol."* The preceding text clearly indicates that a personal information manager comprises of a plurality of data items associated to a plurality of identifiers.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method characterized by, the method wherein the method further comprises maintaining a register of at least one grouping identifier being associable to at least one

data item stored into the memory of the first electronic device with the motivation to

efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-

19).

As per claims 5 and 17, Alam does not teach a method where the first grouping

identifier is manually selected from the register by a user of the first electronic device.

Champagne teaches a method where the first grouping identifier is manually

selected from the register by a user of the first electronic device (i.e. *"In the case of personal

information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of

a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address

books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field

identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of

most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories

in the field identification protocol."* The preceding text clearly indicates that a user may manually select

general notes, which is the identifier, from the register, which is a PIM application, and within the general

notes contains data items, which are general notes records.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne

to include a method where the first grouping identifier is manually selected from the

register by a user of the first electronic device with the motivation to efficiently overcome

problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claims 6 and 18, Alam does not explicitly teach a method wherein the first

grouping identifier is automatically selected from the register by the first electronic

device.

Champagne teaches a method wherein the first grouping identifier is

automatically selected from the register by the first electronic device (i.e. *"In the case of*

personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where

the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists,

address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a

field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields

of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the

categories in the field identification protocol." The preceding text clearly indicates that the first electronic

device may automatically data items associated with appointments, which is an identifier, from the

register, which is the PIM application. That is, when a user sets up an appointment, by entering the date

and time of the appointment, the user is notified by the electronic device when that date and time

occurs.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne

to include a method wherein the first grouping identifier is automatically selected from

the register by the first electronic device with the motivation to efficiently overcome

problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claims 7 and 19, Alam does not teach a method wherein the second

grouping identifier is formed by a user of the first electronic device.

Champagne teaches a method wherein the second grouping identifier is formed by a user of the first electronic device (i.e. *"The information identifying the record structure of one of the databases identifies the record structure according to a selected field identification protocol identifying the categories and properties of the fields in the record structure of that database."* The preceding text clearly indicates that a data item is contained within a record structure and is associated with an identifier, which are categories.)(Abstract).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method wherein the second grouping identifier is formed by a user of the first electronic device with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claims 8 and 20, Alam does not teach a method wherein the second grouping identifier is stored to the register of the first electronic device.

Champagne teaches a method wherein the second grouping identifier is stored to the register of the first electronic device (i.e. *"In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol."* The preceding text clearly indicates that the created identifiers are appointments, 'to do' lists, address books, etc., and are stored to the register, which is the database.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method wherein the second grouping identifier is stored to the register of the first electronic device with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 12, Alam teaches a method wherein the selected grouping identifier comprises an icon to be visually presented to the user of the first device (i.e. "A user may enter commands and information into the desktop computer 14 through input devices such as a keyboard 40, pointing device 42 and microphone 43. Other input devices (not shown) may include a joystick, game pad, satellite dish, scanner, or the like. These and other input devices are often connected to the processing unit 62 through a serial port interface 46 that is coupled to the system bus 66, but may be connected by other interfaces, such as a sound card, a parallel port, game port or a universal serial bus (USB) A monitor 47 or other type of display device is also connected to the system bus 66 via an interface, such as a video adapter 48." The preceding text clearly indicates that an icon is a type of command or information entered by a user and a monitor is a display device that allows the visually presentation.)(column 6, lines 54-66).

As per claim 13, Alam teaches a method wherein the selected grouping identifier further comprises text to be visually presented to the user of the first device (i.e. "A user may enter commands and information into the desktop computer 14 through input devices such as a keyboard 40, pointing device 42 and microphone 43. Other input devices (not shown) may include a joystick, game pad, satellite dish, scanner, or the like. These and other input devices are often connected to the processing unit 62 through a serial port interface 46 that is coupled to the system bus 66, but may be connected by other interfaces, such as a sound card, a parallel port, game port or a universal serial

bus (USB) A monitor 47 or other type of display device is also connected to the system bus 66 via an

interface, such as a video adapter 48." The preceding text clearly indicates that an text is a type of

command or information entered by a user and a monitor is a display device that allows the visually

presentation.)(column 6, lines 54-66).

As per claim 14, Alam does not teach a method wherein the selected grouping

identifier further comprises information of those data items associated to said grouping

identifier.

Champagne teaches a method wherein the selected grouping identifier further

comprises information of those data items associated to said grouping identifier (i.e. *"A*

field identification protocol provides a syntax for identifying and communicating characteristics of a field of

a database. It provides two types of information: information identifying a "category" for the field and

information identifying a "property" of a field." The preceding text clearly indicates that an identifier is a

category and the information of those data items associated to the identifier is the properties.)(page 3,

paragraph 35).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne

to include a method wherein the selected grouping identifier further comprises

information of those data items associated to said grouping identifier with the motivation

to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines

18-19).

9.   Claims 9-11 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Alam et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,544 and known hereinafter as Alam) in view of

Champagne et al (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2005/0086199 and known hereinafter as

Champagne) and in further view of Huskin (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,663).

As per claims 9 and 21, Alam and Champagne do not explicitly teach a method

wherein a user of the first electronic device selects the grouping identifier for the

synchronization manually.

Hunkins teaches a method wherein a user of the first electronic device selects

the grouping identifier for the synchronization manually (i.e. *"Manual Update. Each of the*

databases containing redundant data can be viewed as islands of automation. Information that is

common to all can be updated by manually entering the information into each of the separate databases.

This is an extremely common method." The previous text clearly indicates that synchronization occurs

manually.)(column 2, lines 49-53).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne

and further with the teachings of Hunkins to include a method wherein a user of the first

electronic device selects the grouping identifier for the synchronization manually with

the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files.

(Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 10, Alam and Champagne do not explicitly teach method wherein

the first electronic device selects the selected grouping identifier for the synchronization

automatically.

Hunkins teaches a method wherein the first electronic device selects the selected grouping identifier for the synchronization automatically (i.e. *"It is an object of the present invention to allow redundant data to be updated automatically, without human intervention, in order to provide and preserve data integrity and synchronization."* The preceding text clearly indicates that synchronization occurs automatically.)(column 4, lines 12-16).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne and further with the teachings of Hunkins to include a method wherein the first electronic device selects the selected grouping identifier for the synchronization automatically with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 11, Alam and Champagne do not explicitly teach a method wherein the first electronic device performs the synchronization periodically.

Hunkins teaches a method wherein the first electronic device performs the synchronization periodically (i.e. *"When the scheduled time is reached, the preferred embodiment begins processing each Change Object one by one. Each Change Object is asked for its database references. With this information, all available Format files, like those listed in 1c are scanned to see if the changed data is also appearing in an outside data file. If it is, the external data file is located with the link file as shown 1e and the Format file is used to surgically update the external data file. Since the complete format is now known, this is a manageable problem. When the project file is completed and all Change Objects have been executed, all external data files are synchronized to the common database. "* The preceding text clearly indicates that periodically is a schedule time.)(column 8, lines 6-18).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne

and further with the teachings of Hunkins to include a method wherein the first

electronic device performs the synchronization periodically with the motivation to

efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-

19).

Response to Remarks/Argument

10.   Applicant's arguments filed 04 April 2007 have been fully considered but they are

not persuasive for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant argues:

"New grouping identifiers can be obtained/created in conjunction with storing

data items opens a door for tailored grouping of data items, that according to the

Applicant's understanding, is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record."

The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The prior art of record teaches new

grouping identifiers can be obtained/created in conjunction with storing data items

opens a door for tailoring grouping of data items. That is, a personal information

management devices (i.e. PIM devices) inherently contain the very step the Applicant is

arguing. A PIM device contains data records that have grouping identifiers (i.e.

scheduling, address book, e-mail messaging, task lists, etc.) and when such a device

synchronizes with another computer, should the record not be contained in the other

computer, a new record would be create. This concept is taught throughout Alam, see

Background of Information, columns 1-3)(see also Figures 10A-11B), and further in

combination with Champagne et al, see Figure 2.

Hence, the Applicant's arguments do not distinguish over the claimed invention

over the prior art of record.

Any other arguments by the applicant are either more limiting than the claimed

language or completely irrelevant.
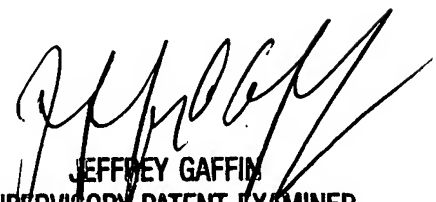

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Farhan M. Syed whose telephone number is 571-272-

7191. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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